

Marine Ecosystem

By Emer Gonzales



The marine ecosystem is important in this world because they provide a lot of things for everyone. The animals that live in water still affect the whole food chain, that's why it's important to know how to take care and respect their environment so they don't die out and become extinct. If that happens, people will experience a major shortage of food in a lot of places in the world.

When I visited the Seattle Aquarium I saw a lot of fish and the different habitats they lived in.

Some knowledge I already had was that fish have simple needs. They need water to survive. One of the things I've learned from visiting the site was that jellyfish have stinging tentacles that can hurt their prey. They use these to protect themselves from other predators so they're not all that vulnerable. They also travel in big groups.

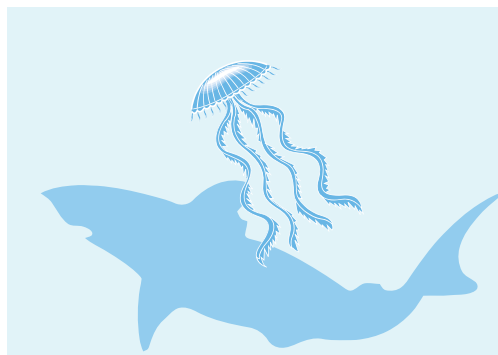
I learned that starfish act like vacuums for the sea floor. They eat anything that has died and lying on the ocean floor. That's why they are a "keystone" species. They keep that particular ecosystem in balance. Some of their biotic factors are other ocean floor species and other starfish that come in various sizes and colors. The abiotic factors

that are present in their environment are the rocks, temperature, seafloor and the amount of sunlight.

"Producers" that I saw at the aquarium are coral reefs, meat corals and hammer corals. They are the ones who make their food using photosynthesis and are prey to primary consumers. They eat small fishes.

Some "Consumers" are mainly fishes such as the Pacific cod, rockfish or flatfish. There are also predators that spend most of their time hunting for other organisms, like sharks, which swim very fast so that makes them pretty dangerous but efficient predators. In fact, our class saw seals or sea lions go after a school of salmon near the Ballard Locks.

The experience of going to the Seattle Aquarium has made me realize that every living thing has its own purpose and role in this world.



The lessons that I've gained can be used to help the community by not harming the environment, by not polluting water, and by conserving my water use at home. In the future, by doing this in the present we and our children don't need to struggle just to be able to survive.

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